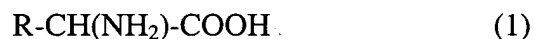


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 10, 11 or 12, wherein said optical isomer I is a D-form and said optical isomer II is a L-form.
3. (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 10, 11 or 12, wherein said optical isomer I with which said biological material is reacted is present in a mixture with optical isomer II.
4. (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 10, 11 or 12, wherein said biological material is a whole cell.
- 5.-9. (Cancelled).
10. (Currently Amended): A method for producing from an optical isomer I of an amino acid represented by Formula (I):



wherein R is an optionally substituted C1-C12 alkyl group, an optionally substituted C4-C8 cycloalkyl group or an optionally substituted C6-C14 aryl group, an optical isomer II, said method comprising reacting a biological material which has an ability of converting said optical

isomer I to said optical isomer II, the isomerism being on the basis of an asymmetric carbon atom to which both of an amino group and a carboxyl group are bound and said ability being not inhibited seriously by ~~an amino acid transferase~~ aminotransferase inhibitor β -chloro-D-alanine, β -chloro-L-alanine or gabaculine, with said optical isomer I, wherein said biological material is one obtained from a microorganism belonging to the genus *Arthrobacter*, *Klebsiella*, *Nocardia*, *Rhizobium*, *Saccharopolyspora* or *Streptomyces*.

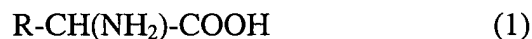
11. (Currently Amended): A method for producing from an optical isomer I of an amino acid represented by Formula (I):



wherein R is an optionally substituted C1-C12 alkyl group, an optionally substituted C4-C8 cycloalkyl group or an optionally substituted C6-C14 aryl group, an optical isomer II, said method comprising reacting a biological material which has an ability of converting said optical isomer I to said optical isomer II, the isomerism being on the basis of an asymmetric carbon atom to which both of an amino group and a carboxyl group are bound and said ability being not inhibited seriously by an ~~amino acid transferase~~ aminotransferase inhibitor β -chloro-D-alanine, β -chloro-L-alanine or gabaculine, with said optical isomer I, wherein said biological material is one obtained from a microorganism classified to *Arthrobacter pascens*, *Flavimonas oryzihabitans*, *Klebsiella planticola*, *Nocardia diaphanozonaria*, *Pseudomonas chlororaphis*, *Pseudomonas oleovorans*, *Pseudomonas oxalaticus*, *Pseudomonas taetrolens*, *Rhizobium meliloti*, *Saccharopolyspora hirsuta* or *Streptomyces roseus*.

12. (Currently Amended): A method for producing from an optical isomer I of an amino

acid represented by Formula (I):



wherein R is an optionally substituted C1-C12 alkyl group, an optionally substituted C4-C8 cycloalkyl group or an optionally substituted C6-C14 aryl group, an optical isomer II, said method comprising reacting a biological material which has an ability of converting said optical isomer I to said optical isomer II, the isomerism being on the basis of an asymmetric carbon atom to which both of an amino group and a carboxyl group are bound and said ability being not inhibited seriously by an ~~amino acid transferase~~ aminotransferase inhibitor β -chloro-D-alanine, β -chloro-L-alanine or gabaculine, with said optical isomer I, wherein said biological material is one obtained from *Arthrobacter pascens* strain IFO12139, *Flavimonas oryzihabitans* strain JCM2952, *Klebsiella planticola* strain JCM7251, *Nocardia diaphanozonaria* strain JCM3208, *Pseudomonas chlororaphis* strain IFO3521, *Pseudomonas oleovorans* strain IFO13583, *Pseudomonas oxalaticus* strain IFO13593, *Pseudomonas taetrolens* strain IFO3460, *Rhizobium meliloti* strain IFO14782, *Saccharopolyspora hirsuta subsp.kobensis* strain JCM9109 or *Streptomyces roseus* strain IFO12818.

13.-15. (Cancelled).

16. (Previously Presented): A method for producing from an optical isomer I of an amino acid represented by Formula (I):



wherein R is an optionally substituted C1-C12 alkyl group, an optionally substituted C4-

C8 cycloalkyl group or an optionally substituted C6-C14 aryl group, said method comprising reacting a biological material which has an ability of converting an optical isomer I of said amino acid to an optical isomer II, the isomerism being on the basis of an asymmetric carbon atom to which both of an amino group and a carboxyl group are bound and said ability being not inhibited seriously by an amino acid transferase inhibitor β -chloro-D-alanine, β -chloro-L-alanine or gabaculine, with a racemic mixture of said optical isomers I and II.

17.-18. (Cancelled).

19. (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 16, 17 or 18, wherein said optical isomer I is a D-form and said optical isomer II is a L-form.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, 17 or 18, wherein said biological material is one obtained from a microorganism classified to *Arthrobacter pascens*, *Flavimonas oryzihabitans*, *Klebsiella planticola*, *Nocardia diaphanozonaria*, *Pseudomonas chlororaphis*, *Pseudomonas oleovorans*, *Pseudomonas oxalaticus*, *Pseudomonas taetrolens*, *Rhizobium meliloti*, *Saccharopolyspora hirsuta* or *Streptomyces roseus*.

22. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, 17 or 18, wherein said biological material is one obtained from *Arthrobacter pascens* strain IFO12139, *Flavimonas*

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oryzihabitans strain JCM2952, *Klebsiella planticola* strain JCM7251, *Nocardia diaphanozonaria* strain JCM3208, *Pseudomonas chlororaphis* strain IFO3521, *Pseudomonas oleovorans* strain IFO13583, *Pseudomonas oxalaticus* strain IFO13593, *Pseudomonas taetrolens* strain IFO3460, *Rhizobium meliloti* strain IFO14782, *Saccharopolyspora hirsuta subsp.kobensis* strain JCM9109 or *Streptomyces roseus* strain IFO12818.

23. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 10, wherein said optical isomer I reacted with said biological material is contained in a racemic mixture of said optical isomers I and II.